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Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

L-03 OMB-01 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 /088 R

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APPROVED BY EUR - WELLS STABLER
OSD/OGC - MR. ALLEN
OASD/ISAEUR - MR. MILLER
OASD/ISA-KMRA - LT.COL. TERRY
OJCS/J-5 - COL. KYE (INFO)
OJCS/J-4 - CJR. QUINN
EUR/IB - MR. RABENOLJ
EUR/RPM - MR. REHFELD
L:EUR:MR. RUSSELL
DASD:ISA:MR. BERGOLD
P:MR. ABARBOUR
S/S:WLUERS
---------- 098847
R 072341Z FEB 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON
INFO USMISSION NATO
CINCLANT
USDEL MC
CNO
CSAK
USNAVEUR
COMUSFORAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 026175

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PO, US
SUBJECT: PROPOSED SLICE XXV INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT:
TACTICAL SUPPORT CENTER (TSC) AT LAJES
AB, AZORES
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REFS: (A) LISBON 247

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(B) CINCLANT 251744Z, SEPT. 73 (NOTAL)
(C) CINCUSNAVEUR 051638, JUNE 73 (NOTAL)
(D) COMUSFORAZ 141511Z, MAR 73 (NOTAL)

1. REFTELS REPEATED ALL NON-RECIPIENT ADDRESSEES FOR BACKGROUND.

2. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS ON BOTH THE U.S. AND PORTUGUESE SIJES MAY EXPLAIN THE CONFUSION NOW EXISTING RE THE HANDLING OK THE TACTICAL SUPPORT CENTER PROJECT AT LAJES. THE FOLLOWING RECONSTRUCTION OF EVENTS SHOULD BE USEFUL TO EMBASSY IN DEALING WITH MOD AND IN RESPONDING TO KONMIN PATRICIO'S EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT WHAT WE ARE DOING IN AZORES.

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1957 TECHNICAL AGREEMENT, COMUSFORAZ SOUGHT HOST GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR CONSTRUCTION RPT CONSTRUCTION OF TSC AT LAJES. THIS APPROVAL WAS CONVEYED BY AZORES ZONE COMMANDER (MAIA) ON 12 MARCH 73,

AND SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED TO CINCLANT ON MARCH 14 (REF D). COMUSFORAZ BELIEVES THAT MAIA COORDINATED TSC REQUEST WITH HIGHER AUTHORITIES AND THAT MAIA ACTUALLY TRAVELED TO LISBON TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR PROJECT. (NOTE: CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE PAD FOR TSC IS NOW IN PROGRESS WITH ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE OF MID-SUMMER 1974. PORTUGUESE CONTRACTOR (BANAK) DOING WORK UNDER SUPER-VISION OF U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS.)

4. TSC PROJECT INVOLVES TWO SEPARATE AUTHORIZATIONS: (A) CONSTRUCTION AND (B) KUNDING. AZORES ZONE COMMANDER (MAIA) GAVE AUTHORIZATION FOR CONSTRUCTION. ON JUNE 5, 1973 CINCUSNAVEUR SENT MESSAGE TO MOD PORTUGAL (REF C) WHICH WAS INTENDED AS A REQUEST FOR PORTUGUESE APPROVAL OF TSC FUNDING (VICE CONSTRUCTION). CINCUSNAVEUR'S MESSAGE DID NOT RPT NOT REFER TO AUTHORIZATION FOR CONSTRUCTION WHICH MAIA HAD GIVEN SEVERAL MONTHS EARLIER.

5. MOD REPLY TO CINCUSNAVEUR (REF B) LIKEWISE MADE NO CONFIDENTIAL

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REFERENCE TO AUTHORIZATION GIVEN BY MAIA AND, INSTEAJ, EXPRESSED PORTUGUESE VIEW THAT TACTICAL SUPPORT CENTER SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN CONTEXT U.S.-PORTUGUESE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON AZORES BASE AGREEMENT. WE CANNOT ACCEPT THIS INTERPRETATION OF U.S.-PORTUGUESE AGREEMENT ON EITHER TECHNICAL OR LEGAL GROUNDS. MOD RESPONSE, WHEN REAJ WITH LISBON 247 (REF A) RAISES SUSPICION THAT GOP WISHES TO USE THE TSC ISSUE AS ANOTHER BARGAINING CHIP

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IN THE AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

6. WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE TO GOP THAT TACTICAL SUPPORT CENTER IS TIED TO RIGHTS GUARANTEED UNDER 1951 AGREEMENT KOR LIFE OF NATO TREATY, RATHER THAN TO PEACETIME RIGHTS NOW BEING RENEGOTIATED. PROJECT WOULD PROBABLY BE UNDER-TAKEN EVEN IF PEACETIME RIGHTS TO STATION U.S. KORCES AT LAJES WERE NOT EXTENDED. EMBASSY SHOULJ MAKE KOLLOWING POINTS TO APPROPRIATE GOP AUTHORITIES AND REPORT THEIR REACTION:

(A) TSC IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT LAJES. APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION WAS GIVEN MARCH 12, 1973 BY AZORES ZONE COMMANDER.

(B) WE BELIEVE THE TSC IS A PROPER NATO INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT, AS EVIDENCED BY THE KACT THAT IT WAS PREFINANCED BY THE U.S. NAVY, AND SO RECORJED BY THE NATO INFRA-STRUCTURE PAYMENT AND PROGRESS COMMITTEE. IT RELATES CLEARLY AND DIRECTLY TO SUPPORT OF NATO-EARMARKED P-3C ASW AIRCRAFT OF USN. THIS RELATIONSHIP WAS EMPHASIZED

IN PARAS 3, 5 AND 8 OF CINCUSNAVEUR MESSAGE (REF C) AND WAS REITERATED DURING PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT TO NATO AUTHORITIES ON 27 SEPTEMBER 1973.

(C) EVEN IF THE 1971 BASE AGREEMENT IS NOT EXTENDED, THE 1951 U.S.-PORTUGUESE AGREEMENT PROVIJES DURING THE LIFE OF NATO FOR U.S. USE OF LAJES IN THE CASE OF A WAR IN WHICH THEY ARE BOTH INVOLVED AND FOR TRANSIT OF U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT CARRYING OUT MISSIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF NATO.

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(D) THEREFORE, USG BELIEVES THAT IT IS INAPPROPRIATE TO LINK TSC WITH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR EXTENSION OF RIGHTS FOR U.S. PEACETIME USE OF LAJES.

(E) IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, USG REQUESTS GOP TO SUBMIT ESTIMATE AND PRE-FINANCING STATEMENT AS PROPOSED REF C. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 07 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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